

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT AND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
U.S. Application No.: 10/544,112
Attorney Docket No.: Q88453

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): A porous fiber comprising a hydrophobic solvent-soluble polymer and an organic compound having a plurality of hydroxyl groups, and having an average fiber diameter of 0.1-20 μm and a void percentage of at least 5%.
2. (original): The porous fiber according to Claim 1, wherein the hydrophobic solvent is a halogen element-containing hydrocarbon.
3. (original): The porous fiber according to Claim 2, wherein the halogen element-containing hydrocarbon is selected from the group consisting of methylene chloride, chloroform, dichloroethane, tetrachloroethane, trichloroethane, dibromomethane, and bromoform.
4. (original): The porous fiber according to Claim 1, wherein the hydrophobic solvent-soluble polymer is selected from the group consisting of polylactic acid, polycaprolactone, polycarbonates, polystyrene, and polyarylates.

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5. (original): The porous fiber according to Claim 1, wherein the number-average molecular weight of the organic compound having a plurality of hydroxyl groups is not less than 62 nor more than 300.

6. (original): A fiber structure comprising porous fibers that comprise a hydrophobic solvent-soluble polymer and an organic compound having a plurality of hydroxyl groups, and have an average fiber diameter of 0.1-20 μm and a void percentage of at least 5%.

7. (original): The fiber structure according to Claim 6, wherein the hydrophobic solvent is a halogen element-containing hydrocarbon.

8. (original): The fiber structure according to Claim 7, wherein the halogen element-containing hydrocarbon is selected from the group consisting of methylene chloride, chloroform, dichloroethane, tetrachloroethane, trichloroethane, dibromomethane, and bromoform.

9. (original): The fiber structure according to Claim 6, wherein the number-average molecular weight of the organic compound having a plurality of hydroxyl groups is not less than 62 nor more than 300.

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10. (original): The fiber structure according to Claim 6, wherein the hydrophobic solvent-soluble polymer is selected from the group consisting of polylactic acid, polycaprolactone, polycarbonates, polystyrene, and polyarylates.

11. (currently amended): A method for producing a fiber structure according to claim 1, comprising porous fibers that have an average fiber diameter of 0.1-20 µm and a void percentage of at least 5%, including a step in which a solution is produced by dissolving a hydrophobic solvent-soluble polymer and an organic compound having a plurality of hydroxyl groups in a hydrophobic solvent, a step in which the solution is spun by electrospinning, and a step in which a fiber structure accumulated on a collector is obtained.

12. (original): The method for producing the fiber structure according to Claim 11, wherein the hydrophobic solvent is a halogen element-containing hydrocarbon.

13. (original): The method for producing the fiber structure according to Claim 12, wherein the halogen element-containing hydrocarbon is selected from the group consisting of methylene chloride, chloroform, dichloroethane, tetrachloroethane, trichloroethane, dibromomethane, and bromoform.